

Using Economic and Population Forecasts For Community Planning

- The State Demography Office produces current year population estimates at the state, county, municipality and special district geography with help of local governments who provide the office data on building permits, certificates of occupancy and boundaries.
- Work with the US Census Bureau and the Demography Office on the Master Address File and other programs to get ready for Census 2010 – it's never too early to start!!
- State and county forecasts out to 2030 are produced by the office using demographic (age, gender, ethnicity, labor force), economic (jobs) and migration (national and international) factors.
- The Demography Office categorizes each county's jobs as either "basic" (bringing in outside dollars) or "local resident services" in order to produce job and population forecasts and to better understand the relationship between jobs and population. Review the Base Industry Analysis for your county and work with us in adjusting any numbers.
www.dola.colorado.gov/demog_webapps/economic_base_analysis
- Review, revise and **use** the Forecasting Worksheets produced by the State Demography Office. This worksheet is truly a worksheet that is adjustable depending on county plans but more importantly shows the relationship between jobs, population, labor force, and commuting out to 2030.
www.dola.colorado.gov/dlg/demog/economy_worksheets.html
- Understand how your local economy fits into the county, region, state, and nation.
 - What is the industry mix of basic and local resident service jobs
 - How are they forecast to grow?
- Understand the demographic factors.
 - What is your population mix by age, gender, ethnicity/race?
 - What are the household incomes?
 - What is the labor force participation?
- Understand the **relationships** in your region, county and municipality.
 - Jobs = People = Housing + Community Services + more People + more Housing + more Community Services + Public Finance Impact
- You **cannot** have growth in basic industries without growth in local resident services.

- Basic industries or “drivers” change over time and are often difficult to recognize
 - Today’s basic industries can be in tree-lined industrial parks, compared to large smoke stacks.
 - Basic industries can disguise themselves as subdivisions as second homes.
 - Basic industries can be commuters, retirees, “trustafarians”, or those with dividends, interest, rent (listed as Households in our spreadsheets).
- Labor income will vary in magnitude by industry. Different levels of household income will create different demands for housing types and community services. Higher household incomes have higher discretionary income and will create more demands on local services (thus more jobs) than households with lower incomes.
- Smart growth requires an understanding and appreciation of the **numbers**. . . of people, houses, services, etc. implied by basic job growth. It also involves providing land, infrastructure, and other resources necessary for the job growth, people, housing and community resources.
- Create a housing mix that supports the labor force required by the jobs.
- Understanding the spatial relationship of jobs and population is critical if a community is to achieve balance in the different parts of the region.
- Create effective transportation systems that consider these relationships.
- Planning related to growth must **BALANCE** quality of life with public finance demands.
- **Call the State Demography Office at 303-866-4147 or visit us online at <http://dola.colorado.gov/dlg/demog/index.html>**